Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A change of grade connector assembly comprising:

first and second substantially planar landscaping edging strips;

first and second substantially planar connector members, ~~each of~~ said connector members defining parallel first and second planes and each comprising a receiver for operably engaging one of said first and second landscaping edging strips;

said first connector member having a first longitudinal axis and said second connector member having a second longitudinal axis;

a fastener assembly defining a pivot axis perpendicular to said first and second planes, said fastener assembly being configured to pivotally attach said first connector member to said second connector member;

said first landscaping edging strip being engaged by said receiver of said first connector member and fixed relative to said first longitudinal axis and said second landscaping edging strip being engaged by said receiver of said second connector member and fixed relative to said second longitudinal axis; and

said first and second connector members being pivotal with respect to each other about said pivot axis between a first position in which said first and second longitudinal axes are aligned and a second position in which said first and second longitudinal axes are out of alignment.

2. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector assembly according to Claim 1, wherein each of said first and second connector members are composed of at least one of aluminum, steel and plastic.

3. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said fastener assembly is a single nut and bolt assembly and an axis of the bolt corresponds to the pivot axis.

4. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector assembly according to Claim 1, wherein each of said first and second connector members includes a stop which is configured to limit the distance said landscaping edging strip is engaged by said receiver of said connector member.

5. (Currently Amended) The change of grade connector assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said first longitudinal axis is inclined relative to said second longitudinal axis to angles between 0° and 90° when said first and second connector members are ~~is~~ in said second position.

6. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said first and second connector members are infinitely adjustable between said first and second positions.

7. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said fastener assembly includes a hole and arcuate slot in each of said first and second connector members and being configured to orient a hole in one connector member with an arcuate slot in the other connector member when two opposing sides of the connector members are mated, a nut and bolt assembly being received in

each aligned hole and arcuate slot to thereby orient said pivot axis midway between each hole and arcuate slot.

8. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector assembly according to Claim 7, wherein one end of each connector member is rounded on a radius having a center point corresponding to said pivot axis.

9. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector assembly according to Claim 1, wherein one end of each connector member is rounded on a radius having a center point corresponding to said pivot axis.

10. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector assembly according to Claim 1, wherein there is provided a lance on both of said first and second connector members projecting from a side thereof and configured to overlap a surface opposed thereto on an adjacent connector member.

11. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said first and second connector members are pivotal with respect to each other about said pivot axis in a vertical plane.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of installing a change of grade connector in landscape edging comprising the steps of:

providing first and second landscape edging strips;

providing a change of grade connector comprising:

first and second connector members, each of said connector members being configured to attach to a landscape edging strip;

said first connector member having a first longitudinal axis and said second connector member having a second longitudinal axis;

a fastener assembly defining a pivot axis, said fastener assembly being configured to pivotally attach said first connector member to said second connector member; and

said first and second connector members being pivotal with respect to each other about said pivot axis between a first position in which said first and second longitudinal axes are aligned and a second position in which said first and second longitudinal axes are out of alignment;

attaching the first landscape edging strip to the first connector member and the second landscape edging strip to the second connector member; and

pivoting the first and second connector members to match a change of grade of the ground being landscaped.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 12, wherein said first connector member includes upper and lower longitudinal channels configured for receiving upper and lower edges respectively of said first landscape edging strip.

14. (Previously Presented) A change of grade connector comprising:

a first connector member having a first longitudinal axis and including an upper longitudinal channel and a lower longitudinal channel configured for receiving an upper edge and a lower edge respectively of a first landscape edging strip;

a second connector member having a second longitudinal axis and configured to attach to a second landscape edging strip; and

a fastener assembly defining a pivot axis, said fastener assembly being configured to pivotally attach said first connector member to said second connector member,

wherein said first and second connector members are configured to pivot with respect to each other about said pivot axis between a first position in which said first and second longitudinal axes are aligned and a second position in which said first and second longitudinal axes are out of alignment.

15. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector according to Claim 14, wherein the second connector member includes an upper longitudinal channel and a lower longitudinal channel configured for receiving an upper edge and a lower edge respectively of the second landscape edging strip.

16. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector according to Claim 15, wherein at least one of said first and second connector members includes a stop that is configured to limit the distance the respective landscape edging strip can be moved along said at least one connector member.

17. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector according to Claim 16, wherein said stop comprises a closed end of one of said channels.

18. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector according to Claim 14, wherein said first longitudinal axis is inclined relative to said second longitudinal axis to angles between 0° and 90° when said connector is in said second position.

19. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector according to Claim 14, wherein said first and second connector members are infinitely adjustable between said first and second positions.

20. (Previously Presented) The change of grade connector according to Claim 14, wherein at least one of said first and second connector members includes a stop that is configured to limit the distance the respective landscape edging strip can be moved along said at least one connector member.

21. (New) The change of grade connector assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said first landscaping edging strip has a centerline and is engaged by said receiver of said first connector member with said centerline parallel to said first longitudinal axis.

22. (New) The change of grade connector assembly according to Claim 21, wherein said second landscaping edging strip has a centerline and is engaged by said receiver of said second connector member with said centerline of said second landscaping edging strip parallel to said second longitudinal axis